

Re: Item 8.4

Council Report: C222/2022

Re: Capital Power Request for Municipal Support Resolution for natural Gas Expansions – Ward 5

Greetings,

It was disappointing to read the administration recommendation in Item 8.4, especially since it was written by the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change office.

Windsor's Climate Action Accountability, Ontario's Dirty Plans

Since Windsor declared a climate emergency back in 2019, the environmental focus has been on reducing emissions and building environmental resilience to protect the health and welfare of the population. Supporting a project that will add greenhouse gases and other air pollutants to our current burden undermines the 2019 commitment by the municipal government of Windsor.

In November of 2020 the City of Windsor endorsed a resolution calling for the phaseout of gas-fired power in Ontario. This is another commitment made by the city that will be undermined by endorsing this administrative report. Indeed, it was only a few weeks ago that this Council supported Capital Power's plans for a battery storage operation. Going from a zero-emission proposal to more of the same (burning methane gas) in such a short period of time should not be rewarded with Council's support.

Natural gas is not a transition fuel in Ontario. There is no energy transition happening at this time as described in the administrative report, specifically burning methane is not a transition to a greener future. In Ontario gas-fired power is the end point of the transition from coal-fired power. In fact, Ontario is in the process of expanding gas-fired power making the province's electrical supply dirtier with each new power plant or expanded power plant.

Under the Ontario government's current plan, greenhouse gas pollution from Ontario's gas-fired power plants could increase by more than 300% by 2030 and by more than 600% by 2040 (source: [IESO](#)). There are cleaner and lower cost

options available today to meet our needs for power in Windsor and the rest of Ontario.

Power Advisory Reports

The same consultant, Power Advisory, that Windsor contracted for its *Power Advisory Energy Report-Options for the City of Windsor* also wrote another report in November of 2022 entitled *Scenarios for a Net-Zero Electricity System in Ontario*. The highlights of the report include:

- **It is more affordable** to meet rising electricity demand through a mix of energy efficiency, solar, wind and storage, than it is to ramp up natural gas.
- **Ontario can reduce emissions** to 85% below projected levels by 2035, while keeping wholesale electricity rates on par with today's prices.
- **Existing gas plants** can be limited to ensuring grid reliability with total output well below today's levels in 2035.
- **There are multiple, diverse solutions** to secure a reliable, affordable, and clean electricity system, and we need to start moving all of them forward now.

Better Options Exist Now Than Burning More Gas

In the mean time while Ontario reverts to a more expensive and dirtier electrical grid, the US is investing \$200 billion to ramp up solar, wind, energy storage and energy efficiency (source: [EDF](#)), and 50 per cent of planned gas plants in the U.S. have been cancelled (source: [RMI](#)). The cost of wind and solar have dropped by 72 per cent and 90 per cent, respectively, over the last decade, and are currently the cheapest sources of new electricity generation (source: [Lazard](#)). Wind and solar comprised 75 per cent of new installed capacity globally in 2021, up from 23 per cent in 2009 (source: [Bloomberg NEF](#)).

Getting Ontario to a zero-carbon electricity or net-zero grid quickly should be the goal of all levels of government. It is an achievable goal while also preserving reliability, affordability, and environmental sustainability. Multiple options exist for Ontario other than expanding the use of gas-fired power, including those highlighted in the Power Advisory report above and expanding our transmission links with Quebec and vehicle to grid integration (source: [OCAA](#))

Federal Grants at Risk?

Supporting additional gas-fired power is in direct contradiction of federal regulations and could hinder Windsor's ability to receive future federal funding. The Clean Electricity Regulations seek to achieve a net zero electricity grid by 2035. This includes reducing, not increasing, gas-fired power.

Conclusion

Given the plethora of zero emission options to provide power in Windsor and Ontario, a relatively dirty option such as natural gas should not be seriously considered. I urge you to reject this administrative report's recommendations and reject the notion that we must burn additional fossil fuel in Windsor and Ontario to provide electrical power.

Derek Coronado

Coordinator, Citizens Environment Alliance

www.citizensenvironmentalliance.org